

PATENT

Serial No. 10/647,642

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated 12th May 2005 claims 1 to 23 are pending of which claims 1 to 23 are subject to an election or restriction requirement.

Amendments have been proposed to claims 10 to 19 to correct their preambles. These claims are dependant back to independent claim 9 but did not have the same preamble. We submit that in making this amendment no new subject matter has been added.

Amendment is proposed to delete claims 20 and 21 as the invention is restricted to not include these claims as discussed below.

Applicant restricts this application to Invention I as defined by the Examiner. Claims 1 to 19 and 22 and 23 relate to this invention.

The applicant is further asked to elect Species 1 shown in Figures 6 - 8 or Species 2 in Figures 9 - 11. Applicant elects Species 1 for prosecution on the merits. We submit, however, that all claims 1 to 19 and 22 and 23 read onto Species 1. There are no claims at present which claim a stent graft prosthesis which comprises a distally extending exposed stent which is illustrated in Figures 9 to 11. There also are no claims at present which claim a method of deploying a stent graft prosthesis which comprises a distally extending exposed stent which method is illustrated in Figures 9 to 11.

The examination and consideration of this application is respectfully requested, and it is further requested that the application be passed to issue.

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Although the foregoing discussion is believed to be dispositive of the issues in this case, applicants' attorney requests a telephone interview with the Examiner to further discuss any unresolved issues remaining after the Examiner's consideration of this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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